

Claim 2 has been rewritten as an independent claim. Claim 2 is not narrower in scope than the originally filed claim and encompasses the same limitations as filed originally claim 2.

Claim 10 has been amended to remove an informality in claim language. The claim has not been narrowed in scope. Claim 15 has been amended to depend directly from claim 2.

The amendments presented in this document do not constitute new matter.

Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner enter the above amendments into the file history of this application and consider the following remarks.

PRIORITY

The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that a certified copy of the Canadian priority documents were not filed at the Patent and Trademark Office. In order to meet the requirements of 35 U.S.C. 119(b) the Applicant encloses with this response a certified copy of Canadian Application Nos. 2,287,667 and 2,273,320.

ALLOWABLE SUBJECT MATTER

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The Examiner indicated in the Office Action that claims 2-14 would be in a condition for allowance, if claim 2 was rewritten in independent format to explicitly include the limitations of claim 1. Claim 2 has been rewritten in independent claim format to include the limitations of claim 1. Claims 2 -14 are now believed to be in condition for allowance.

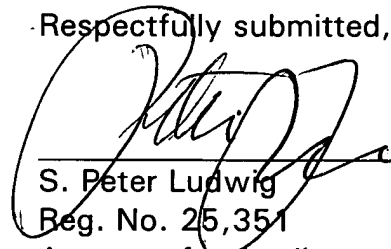
Claim 15 has been amended and now depends claim 2. Amended claim 15 is also believed to be in condition for allowance.

CONCLUSION

For the reasons stated above, Applicant believes that the pending claims of this application, as amended, are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, withdrawal of all objections and rejections and reconsideration of the application are respectfully requested. The Examiner is invited to contact Applicant's representative at the below-indicated telephone number if (s)he believes it would advance prosecution of the application. An allowance is earnestly sought.

Dated: December 6, 2001

Respectfully submitted,



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